

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DHAHRA 00317 141345Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 EB-08 /039 W
-----141353Z 023487 /47

P R 141250Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5311
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMCONSUL KADUNA
USLO RIYADH PRIORITY

UNCLAS DHAHRAN 0317

ATHENS FOR RTDO KINNEAR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, XA
SUBJECT: IOWA STATE IOGA TRADE MISSION -- DHAHRAN STOPOVER

REF: STATE 053370, DHAHRAN 0108, DHAHRAN 0281

1. SHORTLY BEFORE RECEIPT OF REF DEPTTEL, POST WAS NOTIFIED BY STATE 049058 THAT NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE (AND, POSSIBLY INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE OF ARMED FORCES (SEE JIDDA 1906) WILL HAVE GROUP OF STUDENTS IN DHAHRAN ON FIELD TRIP FROM MAY 6 TO 7. BECAUSE OF NUMBER OF STUDENTS INVOLVED, VISIT WILL PLACE HEAVY BURDEN ON RESOURCES OF CONSULATE GENERAL.

2. REF DEPTTEL NOTIFIED POST THAT IT MAY EXPECT TO RECEIVE FULL VISIT OF IOWA TRADE MISSION FROM MAY 5 TO 7. THIS WAS FIRST NOTICE GIVEN TO POST THAT STATE OF IOWA IS PLANNING TO HAVE ITS ENIRE TRADE MISSION VISIT CONSULAR DISTRICT, ALTHOUGH POST HAS TRIED TO CLARIFY
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PAGE 02 DHAHRA 00317 141345Z

THIS POINT SINCE NOVEMBER (SEE 76 DHAHRAN 1372). OUR REFTELS HAVE ADVISED ONLY CONSTRUCTION PORTION OF TRADE MISSION MIGHT FIND STOPOVER IN DHAHRAN USEFUL AND WE CONTINUE TO SEE ADVANTAGE TO THAT APPROACH.

3. POST NOTES THAT DATES PROPOSED FOR VISIT OF IOWA TRADE MISSION SPAN MUSLIM WEEKEND AND, CONSEQUENTLY, ALLOW

TRADE MISSION TO BE IN DHAHRAN FOR JUST ONE BUSINESS DAY. MAY 7. PROGRAM OF TRADE MISSION FOR WEEKEND WILL BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AS MOST BUSINESSMEN USE THAT TIME OF WEEK AND YEAR TO TAKE THEIR FAMILIES ON WEEKEND OUTINGS. INTRODUCTORY SOCIAL EVENT, THEREFORE, WILL NOT DRAW MANY GUESTS. POST WISHES TO BE ENTIRELY HELPFUL AND FORTHCOMING IN AID OF IOWA TRADE MISSION BUT HAS SERIOUS DOUBTS THAT TIMING OF VISIT WILL LEAD TO USEFUL BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS. MOREOVER, WITH NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE GROUP IN CONSULAR DISTRICT FOR MOST OF PERIOD IOWA MISSION WILL BE HERE, STRETCHED RESOURCES OF POST WILL MEAN THAT BOTH GROUPS WILL RECEIVE MINIMAL ASSISTANCE FROM POST.

4. POST HAS DISCUSSED FOREGOING WITH EMBASSY JIDDA AND BEST OPTION OPEN IS TO SPLIT MISSION BETWEEN DHAHRAN AND RIYADH. BULK OF MISSION WOULD GO TO RIYADH AND HAVE APPOINTMENTS WITH SAUDI OFFICIALS AND BUSINESSMEN ON MAY 7 BEFORE PROCEEDING TO JIDDA. CONSTRUCTION SEGMENT OF MISSION WOULD VISIT DHAHRAN AND APPOINTMENTS WOULD BE ARRANGED FOR THOSE MEMBERS OF TRADE MISSION FOR MAY 7 (VERY FEW, IF ANY, BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS CAN BE PROGRAMED ON MAY 5 OR 6). IOWA CONSTRUCTION COMPANY MAY TRY TO SCHEDULE SOCIAL EVENT (SEE DHAHRAN 0218) FOR EVENING OF MAY 5 ALTHOUGH PROBLEM OF DRAWING INTERESTING SAUDI BUSINESSMEN THAT EVENING WOULD BE AS DIFFICULT FOR IT AS FOR POST.

5. PENDING REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE, POST WILL TAKE NO UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 DHAHRA 00317 141345Z

ACTION REGARDING REQUEST FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS (SEE PARA 3 REF DEPTTEL).
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Message Attributes

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